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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: IEA LONG TERM PROGRAM: NORWAY

REF: PARIS 32754

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ENDERS

PARIS FOR BOSWORTH

1. MAJOR PROBLEM AREA REMAINING FOR 'AD REFERENDUM'
AGREEMENT AT DECEMBER 19 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON IEA LONG
TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IS CONTINUED NORWEGIAN RELUCTANCE
TO ACCEPT CHAPTER V. PROVISIONS ON LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES.
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- 2. I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE URGENTLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO DECEMBER 19 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING HAS INSTRUCTIONS-TO PERMIT HIM TO TAKE LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON AD REFERENDUM BASIS.
- 3. YOU MAY FIND FOLLOWING POINTS HELPFUL IN YOUR PRESENTATION \cdot

BACKGROUND: ISSUE OF COMMITMENTS ON DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO INVESTMENT IN ENERGY PRODUCTION HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT IN NEGOTIATION OF OVERALL LONG-TERM PROGRAM. COUNTRIES WITH FEW DOMESTIC ENERGY POSSIBILITIES HAVE PRESSED FOR LEGALLY BINDING UNDERTAKING ON NON-DISCRIMIN-ATORY ACCESS. ANY SUCH GENERAL UNDERTAKING OF A LEGAL NATURE IS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE COUNTRIES SUCH AS NORWAY WITH SIGNIFICANT ENERGY RESOURCES. THE U.S., BEING UNABLE TO ACCEPT SUCH A COMMITMENT, PROPOSED A SET OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC ENERGY SECTORS. (THESE PRINCIPLES ARE CONTAINED IN CHAPTER III OF THE LONG-TERM PACKAGE). THE U.S., NORWAY, AND OTHER ENERGY RICH COUNTRIES COULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE ACCESS QUESTION ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS THAN ON A GENERAL, ACROSS THE BOARD BASIS. WE HAVE NONETHELESS, RECOGNIZED THAT SOME SORT OF GENERAL COMMITMENT ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER V. IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE OVERALL PACKAGE.

CANADA WAS ABLE TO ACCEPT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES, BUT NOT CHAPTER V. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS. NORWAY THOUGH WILLING TO ACCEPT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT CHAPTER V. AND PLANS TO USE THE CANADIAN RESERVATION ON THIS ISSUE AS AN EXCUSE. THE U.S. AND UK, THE OTHER MAJOR ENERGY-PRODUCERS OF THE AGENCY, HAVE ACCEPTED BOTH THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CHAPTER V. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT BINDING AND REQUIRE THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT FIND THAT A SPECIFIC PROJECT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICIES. CHAPTER V. IS ALSO NOT A BINDING LEGAL COMMITMENT, BUT SHOULD BE ADOPTED AS A POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL.

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COMMITMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS BY IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

-- NORWAY'S OPPOSITION TO NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS BY OTHER IEA COUNTRIES TO ITS ENERGY SOURCES IS AN OBSTACLE TO COMPLETING THE LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. CHAPTER V. AS IT NOW STANDS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE

FOR ALL COUNTRIES AND IS ESSENTIAL TO CONSUMER SOLIDARITY.

- -- THE LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IS A DELICATELY LINKED PACKAGE OF BURDENS AND BENEFITS WHICH INCLUDES ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NORWAY, SUCH AS THE MSP. IEA MEMBERS SHOULD NOT SEEK TO GET OUT OF PARTICULAR PROVISIONS OR SEEK SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS. THIS WOULD UNDERCUT THE ENTIRE PURPOSE OF OUR EFFORT.
- -- CANADA'S EXPECTED RESERVATION ON CHAPTER V. IS NOT WELCOME, BUT DOES REFLECT SOMEWHAT UNIQUE CONDITIONS. THE CANADIANS HAVE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS WITH NON-DISCRIMINATION DUE TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DISPUTE, ENUNCIATED DISCRIMINATORY ENERGY POLICY, EXISTING TWO-TIERED PRICE SYSTEM FOR OIL AND GAS, AND EXISTING RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION CONCERNING ENERGY EXPORTS.
- -- THE U.S. ALSO HAS PROBLEMS WITH CHAPTER V. BUT BELIEVE THEY CAN BE OVERCOME BY A FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC INTERPRETATION OF THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN. IF THE U.S., GIVEN THE SPECIAL NATURE OF OUR ENERGY RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADA, CAN ACCEPT CHAPTER V. WITH THE CANADIAN RESERVATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE CANADIAN QUESTION TO BE A LEGITIMATE FACTOR IN THE DECISION BY ANY IEA COUNTRY.
- -- WE VIEW CHAPTER V. AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE DESIRABIL-ITY IN TERMS OF THE GOALS OF MEMBER COUNTRY COOPERATION OF ORIENTING NATIONAL POLICIES IN THE DIRECTION ON NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THE ENERGY FIELD. GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT ABRUPTLY REVERSE EXISTING NATIONAL POLICY AND NOTHING IN THE CHAPTER IMPLIES ANY OBLIGATION TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION ALREADY IN PLACE.

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COUNTRIES.

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1) EXISTING LEGISLATION: COUNTRIES WOULD USE WHATEVER DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IS AVAILABLE WITHIN EXISTING LEGISLATION TO AFFORD NATIONAL TREATMENT TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, AND 2) NEW LEGISLATION (I.E. STANDSTILL COMMITMENT). GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT SEEK NEW LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PREVENT NATIONAL TREATMENT FOR OTHER IEA

-- WE INTERPRET THE COMMITMENTS IN THE CHAPTER AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE 'BEST ENDEAVORS' APPROACH FALLS SHORT OF THE LEGAL UNDERTAKING WHICH MANY OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WANTED. THE U.S. CONSIDERS THAT 'BEST ENDEAVORS' REPRESENTS A POLITICAL COMMITMENT ON THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS NOT A LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENT NOR DOES IT RESTRICT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. INGERSOLL

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